



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Case Control No. 200103760

Edward Fleckenstein

Mr. Ernie Lazar
PO Box 423434
San Francisco, CA 94142-3434

Dear Mr. Lazar:

I refer to your letter dated September 1, 2000 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, requesting the release of certain material under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552). One of the relevant documents retrieved in response to your request contained information that originated with the Department of State and was therefore referred to us for appropriate action.

We have determined that the information may be released in full.

Sincerely,

Margaret P. Grafeld

Margaret P. Grafeld
Director
Office of IRM Programs and Services

Enclosure:
As stated.

further that FLECKENSTEIN had been charged with meddling in the politics of a foreign nation.

The files of the Passport Office, Department of State, as reviewed on December 2, 1953, by the reporting agent, reflected that passport number 8036 was issued to EDWARD A. FLECKENSTEIN on April 23, 1953, for travel to Germany and Holland for six weeks via Scandinavian Airways leaving May 12, 1953, to visit a United States soldier relative's grave and to visit relatives.

FLECKENSTEIN's passport file reflected the following information concerning the activities which lead up to his expulsion from Germany:

Referring to "New York Times" dispatch from Bonn, Germany, dated July 19, 1953, stating that FLECKENSTEIN, an American citizen from Weehawken, New Jersey, spoke at a Nazi rally at Mannheim, Germany, and denounced Democracy, the Department of State sent a communication to Bonn requesting that if such report as mentioned in the "New York Times" dispatch was confirmed, officials in Germany should take up FLECKENSTEIN's passport and make it valid for immediate return to the United States and that FLECKENSTEIN's passport should be held until travel arrangements were completed. Also FLECKENSTEIN was to be informed that his participation in the political affairs of a foreign government was inconsistent with the protection afforded by an American passport.

The files reflected that FLECKENSTEIN made nine reported public speeches in German cities. The dates and cities are as follows: June 28, 1953, Rothenburg ob der Tauber; June 29, 1953, Feuchtwangen; July 2, 1953, Karlsruhe; July 6, 1953, Stuttgart; July 7, 1953, Heidelberg; July 9, 1953, Freiburg; July 19, 1953, Mannheim; August 5, 1953, Munich; August 7, 1953, Nuremberg.

A communication from Bonn to the Department of State on July 28, 1953, reflected "This man's political activity in Germany to date has been detrimental to United States interests because the credo he has espoused reflects patently undemocratic, hence un-American principles and because we think continued speeches by him on behalf of rightist elements in Germany (1) constitute per se an asset for radical party and (2) may give public impression that in the United States there is support in some quarters for programs of the N.S. and the D.G. It is quite possible that this could confuse the minds of many voters during the forthcoming Bundestag election."

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

☐ Retain Class'n ☐ Change to _____

☐ Declassify in part and excise as shown

EO 12958, 25X() () ()

☒ Declassify ☐ After _____

☐ With concurrence _____ (not)(obtained)

IPS by William Date 11/06/01

105-HQ-22853-44

It is noted that the initials N.S. and D.G. refer to the Nationale Sammlung (National Conference) and Deutsche Gemeinschaft (German Community), contemporary German political parties.

Instructions were then sent from the Department of State, Washington, D. C., to take up FLECKENSTEIN's passport and if such actions failed to result in his departure for the United States, to expell him.

On August 5, 1953, at FLECKENSTEIN's press conference in Munich, members of the Consular Staff requested FLECKENSTEIN to surrender his passport. He refused to do so. The German Foreign Office inquired whether HICOG was willing to expell FLECKENSTEIN on request since his stay in the Federal Republic was undesirable because of participation in extremist rightist political activities. The German Foreign Office was advised of the Department of State's decision to limit the validity of FLECKENSTEIN's passport as a result of which they could declare his stay in Germany illegal under paragraph 5, section 1A, of the German Alien Police Regulations. The German Foreign Office did request FLECKENSTEIN's expulsion on the grounds that his stay was illegal and undesirable. HICOG then issued the expulsion order.

On Friday night, August 7, 1953, FLECKENSTEIN was taken into German custody at Nuremberg and transferred shortly thereafter to United States custody. He was delivered to the Frankfurt Provost Marshal on August 8, 1953, and was to be put aboard MATS flight A-130 departing Frankfurt, Germany, at 6 p.m. on August 9, 1953, due to arrive at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts, at 10 a.m. on August 10, 1953.

A letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service dated August 13, 1953, reflected that passport number 89356, issued April 23, 1953, to EDWARD A. FLECKENSTEIN, was lifted when he arrived at Westover Air Force Base at 12:40 p.m. on August 10, 1953, in MATS plane from Germany. This passport is now in FLECKENSTEIN's file at the Passport Office, Department of State.

On August 8, 1953, passport number 89356 was amended to read "This passport is valid only for direct return to the United States within one week from date." It was stamped amended August 10, 1953, Springfield, Massachusetts, Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts.

WFO 105-5101

FLECKENSTEIN's passport reflected the following foreign address through which he could be reached while in Germany: care
Friedrich Stein Alzenau -- (Main Franken) 13-A, Bavaria, Germany.

RUC